

Responses to Offeror Questions Genetic Testing for Paternity Determination #2666

#	Offeror Question	Answer
1	<p>Q: Section 3.2.22 states the following: Offeror will guarantee a maximum turnaround time of no more than fourteen (14) days between the collection of the sample of the last person in the case and the issuance of the test report back to DSS staff. The Offeror will provide their average turnaround time and provide any reason why they may not meet the twenty-one (21) day timeframe.</p> <p>Please clarify that the turnaround time is twenty-one (21) days?</p>	<p>A: Section 3.2.22 criteria should reflect a maximum turnaround time of no more than fourteen (14) days between the collection of the sample of the last person in the case and the issuance of the test report back to DSS staff.</p> <p>The Offeror will provide their average turnaround time and provide any reason why they may not meet the fourteen (14) day timeframe.</p>
2	<p>Q: We find the following in 2.0 Standard Agreement Terms and Conditions: Any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP will include, at minimum, the State's standard terms and conditions as seen in Attachment A. As part of the negotiation process, the contract terms listed in Attachment A may be altered or deleted.</p> <p>Are we correct in assuming that this was intended to read "Attachment A may not be altered or deleted"?</p>	<p>A: Correct, it should have indicated "As part of the negotiation process, the contract terms listed in Attachment A may not be altered or deleted."</p>
3	<p>Q: Regarding Section 3.2.6 reads as follows: The Offeror will describe their proposed method to notify DSS staff of unsuccessful collection within 36 hours of scheduled draw.</p> <p>Can the agency be flexible of the time allowed for notification and if so will the agency consider changing this specification to read "The Offeror will describe their proposed method to notify DSS staff of unsuccessful collection associated with scheduled draws.</p>	<p>A: The 36-hour timeframe from date of scheduled draw has been reviewed. It is presumed most of the failed draw notifications would fall within the 36-hour timeframe and the need to expand this timeline would not be necessary.</p> <p>However, the following would be considered satisfactory for those anticipated few that may not meet the 36-hour timeline.</p> <p>DSS will receive notification at 36-hours advising, "Response from Collection Site Pending". DSS will allow a 48-hour extension to obtain and report this information.</p> <p>The Offeror will describe their proposed method to notify DSS of unsuccessful collections within their response.</p>
4	<p>Q: If the Offeror is not including proprietary information in their proposal the flash drive described in section 5.1.3 will not be necessary.</p> <p>Will a statement to the effect that there is no proprietary information in our proposal be sufficient to inform reviewers that the second flash driver was not required and not omitted accidentally?</p>	<p>A: In accordance with 1.11, the Executive Summary should include a statement regarding proprietary information.</p> <p>With no proprietary information being provided, please add a statement in the Executive Summary advising there is no proprietary information within the proposal. As such, no flash drive is needed to meet this criterion in section 5.1.3.</p>

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5	<p>Q: Section 3.2.19 states the following: 3.2.19 The Offeror will have qualified, experienced staff available for on-site expert testimony with a minimum of forty-eight (48) hour advanced notice. The court may request the expert to provide depositions, responses to interrogatories, written affidavits and/or courtroom testimony, as necessary. DSS prefers this individual to be the director of the laboratory or the director's designee with minimum qualifications of an earned Ph.D. in a relevant biological or biomedical science and shall be personally familiar with processes and procedures used in the laboratory. The Offeror will provide a staff listing including qualifications for those who that will provide this service. The Offeror will explain any situation where they would not have preferred staff available.</p> <p>Forty-eight (48) hours does not allow the expert who will be testifying sufficient time to complete case review, identify and submit discovery documents, arrange for air travel, etc. Will the agency consider changing this requirement to reflect two (2) weeks notice?</p>	<p>A: Section 3.2.19 states the Offeror will have qualified, experienced staff available for on-site expert testimony with a <i>minimum</i> of forty-eight (48) hour advance notice.</p> <p>South Dakota agrees this is a short amount of time, and would only be warranted under extenuating circumstances, which has not occurred to date.</p> <p>Regardless of circumstances, the Offeror will identify and provide to South Dakota the contact information for the individual providing expert testimony as soon as possible, and within the 48-hour timeline. If the case is not one of extenuating circumstances, South Dakota will work with the individual for specific scheduling purposes.</p>
6	<p>Q: Section 3.2.3 reads as follows: The Offeror will describe their processes to ensure each site is convenient, properly staffed, stocked with ample supplies and paperwork, and not be more than 30 miles from the individual's residence. The Offeror will describe any reason why they feel this is not appropriate.</p> <p>Given issues associated with the pandemic many locations that were once available to us for collections are now closed, on restricted schedules or, in the case of clinics associated with hospital systems, if the hospital has adopted a policy not to allow access their clinic affiliates follow the same policy. For these reasons we request this requirement be changed to reflect a change to 50 miles for additional options if needed.</p>	<p>A: Based on the rural nature of the state, and consideration for those individuals who may have limited transportation available, the requirement within 3.2.3 will remain within 30 miles from the individual's residence.</p>
7	<p>Q: Attachment A – Sample Contract Section 16 IT Standards reads as follows: Any software or hardware provided under this Agreement will comply with state standards which can be found at http://bit.sd.gov/standards/.</p> <p>This solicitation is seeking genetic testing services for paternity determination. No software or hardware will be provided as part of the new contract and we are not “pursuing IT business opportunities” in our proposal. Please confirm we are correct in our understanding that Section 16 does not apply to the new contract if awarded.</p>	<p>A: Attachment A is included in the contract should there be hardware or software provided at any time.</p> <p>South Dakota acknowledges the services being requested at this time does not include hardware or software provided to the state.</p>

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8	<p>Q: Section 7.2 states that The Offeror will include their cost proposal and fees charged to recover collection and storage costs for incomplete cases. There does not seem to be a line item on Attachment B for displaying this cost element. Should the Offeror add a line item to Attachment B to cover section 7.2 pricing?</p>	<p>A: The Offeror may add lines to Attachment B if necessary to support the cost they are proposing.</p>
9	<p>Q: Section 3.2.30 states: The Offeror will have a viable disaster relief plan to ensure continuous testing and service levels and records security. A copy of the disaster relief plan should be provided. Our disaster recovery plan contains sensitive information and cannot be released. Will the agency consider accepting an outline of the topics addressed in our plan as evidence we have a disaster recovery plan in place or leave this as a topic for discussion after award?</p>	<p>A: South Dakota request the Offeror provide one of the following to accommodate 3.2.30.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A redacted version of the plan 2) A copy of the plan identified as proprietary. <p>*This would override the response provided in question 4 regarding section 1.11 and would require the Offeror to comply with this section.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) An Executive Summary providing the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed solution • Recovery Time Objective • Minimum Business Continuity Objective • Any flexible Service Level Agreement information • Key points of the planning process • Governance model • Training • Exercising • Roles and responsibilities